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Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Chapter at Fort Worth, TX
COWTOWNER Newsletter For Chapter Year 2008-2009 September 2008

Our Mission: To be the AGA chapter dedicated to providing continuous educational opportunities for our members, promoting AGA Government Financial Management certification with fidelity anchored in professionalism, integrity, and competency.

Chapter President's Message

Please welcome our new Chapter Officers for the 2008-2009 Chapter Year:

- **Bob Kanaga**, Chapter President.
- **Vacant**, Chapter President-Elect.
- **Lakshmi Krishnamurthy** and **Willie Hunter**, Chapter Co-Treasurers.
- **Vacant**, Chapter Secretary.
- **Lakshmi Krishnamurthy**, Chapter Historian.
- **Debbie Currie**, Chapter Web Master.
- **Bob Kanaga**, Newsletter and Education Officers.
- **Shad Sanders** Membership Officer.

Forty-seven Chapter members have paid their dues for the 2008-09 Chapter Year.

The 2007-08 Chapter Year ended in May with an audio conference on Ethics. The CEC discussed the de-activation of the Fort Worth Chapter and National AGA was contacted to learn the process for Chapter de-activation.

Over the summer we were contacted by the Regional VP, Helene Baker and by National AGA's Field Representative, Bobbie Derrick to conduct a Re-Vitalization Meeting with invited Agency Executives to discuss their support for the Fort Worth AGA Chapter. At National AGA's expense the meeting was held at the Reata Restaurant on August 26, 2008. Meeting minutes are presented below.

We will keep you informed by newsletter as to our upcoming meeting dates, speakers and community service! Please support your AGA Fort Worth Chapter.

Volunteer!! Be active!! Help us be better for you!!

Bob Kanaga, CGFM
Chapter President
2008-2009 Chapter Year

AGA-Fort Worth Chapter CEC Meeting September 3, 2008

The Chapter Executive Committee (CEC) met at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 in Room 5A27B in the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, downtown Fort Worth, TX 76102. Attendees

were: Bob Kanaga (President), Willie Hunter (Co-Treasurer), and Bob Kanaga (Education). We had a proxy from Lakshmi Krishnamurthy (Co-Treasurer).

Bob Kanaga, opened the meeting and thanked Willie for attending for attending. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

Treasurer Discussion. The credit union statements from last year were given to Willie. Last year the chapter did not successfully transfer Treasurer duties to Joyce Creeger. Willie and Lakshmi are still listed as active Treasurers with the credit union. Bob gave Willie all the Treasurer documentation he received from Kane Urban and Joyce Creeger. There were two expired dues rebate checks from National AGA which Willie will need to get re-issued. One current check from National and a profit sharing check from the Dallas Chapter were given to Willie to be deposited. Willie prepared checks for Kane Urban (\$135.31 for Olive Garden meeting expenses); for Bob Kanaga (\$27.31 Speaker gift to Joel Welch and \$72 for twelve month P.O. Box dues). Willie also prepared a \$700 to pay for seven 2008-2009 Audio Conferences. It was discussed that we might go ahead and order a total of nine audio conferences if our schedule will permit it. Willie said he would deposit the checks he was given and contact National AGA about getting replacement checks issued for the ones that expired before they were deposited.

Our meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM
Temp/Chapter Secretary

<p>National AGA Conducts Fort Worth Re-Vitalization Luncheon Meeting August 26, 2008</p>
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On Tuesday August 26, 2008 a special National AGA conducted meeting was held to assist the Fort Worth AGA Chapter with its revitalization effort. The meeting was held at the Reata Restaurant, 310 Houston Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 from 11:30 a. m. to 1:15 p.m. Seven AGA members and two guests were present for the luncheon and meeting.

Bobby Derrick, Field Representative National AGA opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests attending. In attendance were:

- Cecilia Neeley, GSA
- Thomas Haralson, GSA
- Joel Welch, Haltom City Financial Manager
- Willie Hunter, SBA(FW Chapter Co-Treasurer)
- John Trubey, GAO (Dallas AGA Chapter President)
- Michael Pose, GAO (Dallas Chapter Newsletter Officer)
- Shad Sanders, DCAA (Immediate Past AGA RVP)
- Bob Kanaga, Retired DCAA (FW Chapter President)

After self-introductions were completed, Bobby introduced AGA to the guests. Discussions were held about what the National and local AGA associations do for all government agencies. Bobby related many experiences about how AGA has helped local, state, and national agencies. He then introduced the Citizen-Centric Reporting system to the audience. Bobby explained that AGA through Harris Interactive conducted its first in a series of annual surveys of public attitudes towards government transparency and accountability. The first survey was conducted in January 2008 with the objective of establishing a baseline understanding of public attitudes, concerning transparency and accountability. The results of that survey were distributed to those in attendance. Bobby explained that the survey

methodology can be used at many difference levels of government and could be a very useful tool to introduce AGA into local government arenas. John Trubey, Dallas Chapter President, suggested that the Citizen-Centric Reports can be tailored to offer “life saving” information to local citizens, i.e. response time for police, fire departments and ambulances to citizens calls for help. Dallas Chapter also announced they are offering ethics training for Texas CPAs on September 17, 2008. Information can be obtained at www.regionline.com/agadallas_ethics.

The GSA and Haltom City guests expressed interest in helping the Fort Worth Chapter in its revitalization activities.

Fort Worth Chapter President, Bob Kanaga, presented attendees with the current Chapter’s Activity Plan. He said the overview shows all activities from CEC meeting, educational events, social events and report due dates to National AGA. Bob pointed out the chapter’s next meeting is an Audio Conference scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2008. The topic is “Fraud Prevention and Detection.” It will be held in the Federal Building, Room 5A30E, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102 from 1P.M. to 3:P.M. Two hours of CPE will be earned for those who attend. This event will be free to all attendees as an introduction to this type of training. Call Bob Kanaga, Education Officer at (817) 929-8243 for more information and to reserve your place at this event.

Bobby thanked us all for attending the meeting and reminded us that if we were willing to volunteer that there are vacancies available of the Fort Worth Chapter Executive Council (CEC). Please volunteer to help your AGA Chapter.

The meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.

Bob Kanaga, CGFM
Temp/Chapter Secretary

Why Become a CGFM?

The Certified Government Financial Manager

The Mark of Excellence in Federal, State and Local Government.

Since its inception in 1994, the CGFM has become the standard by which government financial management professionals are measured. Its education, experience and [ethics requirements](#) have served to elevate the most seasoned financial professionals.

More than 14,000 individuals have received the designation so far. Now it's your turn. Experience the benefits of certification first hand - the CGFM is the mark of excellence in your profession. We look forward to adding your name to our distinguished list of Certified Government Financial Managers.

In a 2001 survey by Robert Half International, a financial management placement firm, 85% of the 1400 CFOs surveyed "believed that a professional certification...can boost career advancement opportunities."

Heritage and Needs

Over the past two decades, a number of factors have created a rapidly changing environment for today's government financial managers. Beginning with the New York City financial crisis in the 1970s and 1980s, state and local governments began overhauling their financial management systems. In 1990, the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) act called for reforms that brought the goal of accountability to the forefront.

The value of financial managers against this turbulent backdrop has shot upwards. Those who believe they are on the high end of the profession, or on the "fast track" toward getting there, need a credential that shows they are qualified and have the skills to lead. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) does this like no other credential.

The CGFM is the first certification broad enough to cover the whole field of government financial management - federal, state and local. It deals not with testing a person in a specific area, but with measuring a wide range of knowledge and skills that a professional needs to succeed in the federal government financial environment, or to meet the unique challenges faced by state and local government financial managers.

In today's complex and changing world, a professional certification provides prospective employers with a degree of confidence that candidates are prepared for the real world." John Radford, CGFM, State Controller, State of Oregon.

Expertise, Value and Recognition

The foundation of the CGFM is the requirement for Education, Experience and Examination. Building on this foundation is a [Code of Ethics](#) and required Continuing Professional Education (CPE).



This designation is already recognized as a professional standard. Since the 2001 federal legislation authorizing federal government agencies to use appropriated funds to pay for expenses to obtain professional credentials, three agencies including the DoD and twelve of its components, have issued formal professional certification policies, with other agencies soon to follow suit. The CGFM designation is listed as one of the funded certifications.

To date, seven states have formally recognized the CGFM - Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, Maine, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. Also, various counties, including Contra Costa county in California, and cities, including Topeka, KS have also formally recognized the CGFM. Each year more and more federal agencies and state and local governments are realizing the value of the CGFM and are formally embracing the designation.

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Board of Regents has also recognized the CGFM. It is accepted as a waiver for part IV of the CIA examination.

Toward the Future

The challenge facing today's government financial managers is to keep up with the changing times. New innovations, new developments and new methods of implementation are creating a new environment in which government financial managers must function.

Increasing knowledge and skills is the key to staying abreast of the latest developments. AGA presents a dynamic program of events and courses every year containing solutions, innovations, and technological breakthroughs that you'll need to retain and enhance your CGFM.

The field of government financial management will be far different tomorrow from what it is today. Having a broad knowledge and a recognized professional designation will be the way to distinguish yourself from the crowd.

There's no time like the present for joining the thousands of other leaders in government financial management who already have discovered the unique value and benefit of the CGFM designation.

Why Certification?

"Certification programs are win-win-win--the certifiers benefit; the certified benefit; and so does any customer, client or employer who relies on the certification. That should explain why, within a decade, every market leader in every global industry will offer certification programs for its key employees." Fortune Magazine, 6.26.2000

October 15, 2008 Audio Conference on Results of AGA's Research on Performance-Based Management Reporting

AGA is pleased to announce its latest audio conference on one of its important ongoing research projects that demonstrates the value of government financial and performance reporting.

Hear an overview of AGA's research project on performance-based reporting and how process-oriented accounting is the basis. The speakers will share the results of Phase I of the research and describe Phase II, recently completed. The discussion includes aspects of multi-dimensional accounting and the ability to use accounting information in a forward-looking, predictive manner.

To share their expertise and experiences in process-based accounting and improving financial reporting are **Peter Chipman, MPA**, Budget Analyst, Office of Budget and Policy, Federal Transit Administration; **Kristine Lee Leiphart**, Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Budget and Policy, Federal Transit Administration; **Martin J. Rajk, MBA**, Deputy Assistant Commandant for Resources and Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard; **Clifton A. Williams, CGFM, CPA**, Partner, Grant Thornton LLP; and **James Brimson, MS**, founder of Activity Based Management Institute.

Please join us for two hours of lively discussion about this important and timely topic. In addition to the speakers' commentary, about 20 minutes will be set aside so participants can ask the speakers questions and share their own experiences.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008

Time: 1–2:50 p.m. Central Daylight Time

Location: Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street, Room 5A30E South (5th Floor, GSA Area), Fort Worth, TX 76102

Learning Objectives: Understanding how multi-dimensional accounting and the ability to use accounting information in can be applied in a forward-looking, predictive manner

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 30, 2008 is \$7,344.68

*Lakshmi Krishnamurthy
& Willie Hunter*

Fort Worth Chapter Co-Treasurers

Chapter Recognition Points as of September 2008

Points earned through September 2008 are 3,975 Points

Next Chapter Recognition Report due December 31, 2008.

AGA National Challenges Local Chapters to Support Citizen-Centric Reporting

AGA still needs your help with encouraging governments to produce and publish four-page Citizen Centric Reports! The Citizen-Centric Reporting Initiative has become one of AGA's hallmark programs. The reports, designed to be visually appealing, provide understandable information to citizens about the performance and financial condition of the government as well as demographics and future challenges--that answer the question, "Are we better off today than we were last year?"

"We are answering to the responsibility we have as financial managers to leave this world better than we found it. If we do not do this, no one will. We are calling on all governments to be accountable to the citizens they serve," said Relmond Van Daniker, AGA's Executive Director.

The City of Saco, Maine was the first entity to produce a citizen centric report in March 2007, and since then, upwards of forty governments have produced reports. The challenge remains to encourage more governments to adopt the four-page report for greater transparency and accountability. Five hundred and even one thousand reports do not sound out of reach.

View the completed reports at www.agacgfm.org/citizen/completed.aspx

The League of Women Voters has endorsed this project and is calling on its local chapters to promote it in their areas. AGA is asking its chapters to do the same. Look around your own home and workplace for opportunities to sell the concept of citizen-centric reporting to officials in your area. Working together, we can make our governments more accountable to the people they serve!

Tools Make It Easy

AGA has developed a [Content Guidelines Template](#) outlining what information should be included on each page as well as a [Design Guidelines Template](#) outlining the physical layout of the report.

Last but Not Least—Bonus Credits!

Earn Chapter Recognition bonus credits for the 2008-2009 Year under **Section V, Membership:**

- Make contact with a government, encourage them to produce and publish a four-page Citizen Centric Report—100 credits per contact made (please forward information to Susan Fritzlen)
- Government that you contacted produces and publishes a four-page Citizen Centric Report—500 credits per published report (please forward pdf of published report to [Susan Fritzlen](#))

Chapter Activity Plan for 2008-09 Chapter Year

Months	CEC Meetings	Chapter Luncheons	Community Service/Social Activity	Other Events
May 2008		Wed. May 14, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Ethics</i> 2 CPE		
June 2008	Thur. June 5 CEC Meeting	Discuss Chapter Revitalization		June 1 Officer's List Due
July 2008	Thur. July 12 CEC Meeting held by phone	Discussed Chapter Revitalization with National & RVP several times.		July 15 Chapter Plans Due
August 2008	Thur. Aug 22 CEC Meeting held by phone	Revitalization Luncheon with local CFOs set for August 26 at Reata at 11:30 a.m.		
September 2008	Thur. Sept 3 CEC Meeting	Wed. Sept 10, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Fraud Prevention & Detection</i> 2 CPE		Sept 30 First Qtr CRP Due Annual Chapter Audit Due
October 2008	Thur. October ? CEC Meeting	Wed. October 15, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Results of AGA's Research on Performance Based Management reporting</i> 2 CPE		
November 2008	Thur. November ? CEC Meeting	Wed. November 12, 2008 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE	Buy gifts for Salvation Army Angel Tree Angels	
December 2008	Thur. December ? CEC Meeting	Wed. December 10, 2008 Audio Conference <i>21st Century Financial Managers: New Mix of Skills & Education Levels</i> 2 CPE		Dec 31 Second Qtr CRP Due
January 2009	Thur. January ? CEC Meeting	Wed. January 21, 2009 <i>How XBRL Can Enable Improved Financial & Performance Reporting</i> 2 CPE		
February 2009	Thur. February ? CEC Meeting	Wed. February 11, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Fraud</i> 2 CPE	Attend the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Empty Bowls event	
March 2009	Thur. March ? CEC Meeting	Wed. March 11, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Internal Controls</i> 2 CPE		Mar 31 Third Qtr CRP Due
April 2009	Thur. April ? CEC Meeting	Wed. April 8, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Auditing</i> 2 CPE	Sell soft drinks at MayFest	Chapter Officer Elections
May 2009	Thur. May ? CEC Meeting Welcome new Officers	Wed. May 9, 2009 Audio Conference <i>Ethics</i> 2 CPE	Donate prizes to the Junk Yard Dog Golf Tournament.	May 31 Fourth Qtr CRP Due

CEC Meetings:

at 4:45 p.m. Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg., Fifth Floor (GSA)

Chapter Meetings:

See below

Audio Conferences:Fritz G. Lanham Federal Bldg, 5th Floor (GSA), Suite 5A32E

POSITION	NAME & AGENCY	WORK PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President	Bob Kanaga	(817) 929-8243	rhkanaga@aol.com
President-Elect			
Secretary			
Co-Treasurer	Lakshmi Krishnamurthy	(817) 437-0451	Krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.net
Co-Treasurer	Willie Hunter SBA	(817) 684-5342	willie.hunter@sba.gov
Newsletter			
Education			
Co-Programs			
Co-Programs	Bob Kanaga	(817) 929-8243	rhkanaga@aol.com
Meetings			
Publicity			
Community Service			
Membership	Shad Sanders DCAA	(817) 763-4885	shad.sanders@dcaa.mil
CGFM			
Awards	By Committee		
Historian	Lakshmi Krishnamurthy	(817) 437-0451	Krishnamurthy.lakshmi@gmail.net
Early Careers			
Webmaster	Debbie Currie	(404) 808-7924	agaftw@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President			
Regional VP	Helene Baker	(832) 567-9872	helenebaker@satx.rr.com